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State Water Resources Control Board

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NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR METALS AND SELENIUM IN CALLEGUAS CREEK, ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND MUGU LAGOON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) that would establish TMDLs for Metals and Selenium in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries, and Mugu Lagoon. The proposed amendment and the State Water Board item language and draft resolution are available on the State Water Board's Web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html> or by mail by contacting Glenda Marsh at (916) 341-5558. The proposed amendment was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) on June 8, 2006. The State Water Board expects to consider the proposed amendment at a future meeting in 2006. Notice of that meeting will be published separately.

These TMDLs address impairments to water quality due to elevated levels of metals and selenium in waters in the Calleguas Creek watershed and Mugu Lagoon. Technical studies indicate that Mugu Lagoon is a "sink" (that is, a site of accumulation) for metals, which endanger aquatic organisms and impair the existing habitat. Furthermore, aquatic organisms accumulate metals, causing human health concerns. The beneficial uses most affected by metals and selenium loadings into Calleguas Creek and Mugu Lagoon include those associated with water supply; human consumption of aquatic organisms; wildlife; rare, threatened or endangered species; estuarine and wetland ecosystems, and recreational uses. These metals and selenium listings are subject to a consent decree between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Heal the Bay, et al. USEPA is required to approve these TMDLs by March 22, 2007 or promulgate their own TMDL.

The proposed Basin Plan amendment specifies numeric targets for metals and selenium in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries, and Mugu Lagoon. The four types of targets include: water quality targets for copper, nickel, zinc, mercury, and selenium; fish tissue targets for mercury; bird egg targets for mercury and selenium; and sediment quality guidelines for copper, nickel, and zinc. In addition, the proposed Basin Plan amendment establishes wasteload allocations for point source discharges and load allocations for nonpoint source discharges of metals and selenium. The proposed TMDLs establish a ten-year implementation schedule for Publicly Owned Treatment

Works and other non-storm water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permittees, and a 15-year implementation schedule for agricultural and permitted storm water dischargers to reduce the loading of metals and selenium to Calleguas Creek. This implementation program recognizes the economic limitations on achieving immediate compliance, especially for agricultural and municipal storm water dischargers, and includes a combination of water quality monitoring, hot-spot waste removal, waste collection, and sediment control. The proposed TMDLs also consist of a monitoring program to assess compliance with wasteload allocations. The monitoring program requires the collection of additional data to evaluate the uncertainties and assumptions made in development of the TMDLs, and to consider potential management scenarios.

Comment letters must be received by 5 p.m. on October 6, 2006. After the October deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments unless the State Water Board determines that such comments should be accepted or unless changes are made to the proposed resolution before the State Water Board meeting. Please send comments to: Song Her, Clerk to the Board, by email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5620 (fax), or addressed to State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please also indicate in the subject line, "Comment Letter – Calleguas Creek Metals TMDL." Please direct questions about this notice to Glenda Marsh, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5558 (gmarsh@waterboards.ca.gov) or Senior Staff Counsel Steven H. Blum at (916) 341-5177 (SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov).

September 14, 2006

Date



Song Her
Clerk to the Board